

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1. (currently amended) A method for verifying shell scripts, the method comprising the
2 computer-implemented steps of:
3 storing, on a computer-readable medium, semantic guidelines that indicate rules,
4 distinct from any rules imposed by the programming language in which the shell
5 scripts are written, about what the scripts should or should not contain, wherein
6 the rules indicated in the semantic guidelines include one or more rules which, if
7 not followed in the shell script, do not result in errors when the shell script is
8 executed;
9 and,
10 prior to executing a shell script, one or more processors of a computer system
11 performing one or more syntactic verification checks on said shell
12 script, wherein said one or more syntactic verification checks verify
13 conformance of said shell script to a set of syntactic guidelines;
14 and,
15 performing one or more semantic verification checks on said shell script,
16 wherein said one or more semantic verification checks verify
17 conformance to ~~a set of~~ the rules indicated in said semantic guidelines.

- 1 2. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
2 prior to executing a shell script,

3 performing one or more coding organizational guideline verification checks,
4 wherein said guideline verification checks verify conformance of said shell script
5 to a set of one or more coding organizational guidelines.

1 3. (original) The method of Claim 2, further comprising a shell grammar verification
2 mechanism that is responsive to said shell script, wherein said shell grammar
3 verification mechanism comprises a plurality of syntactic verification checks which
4 when invoked perform verification of conformance of said shell script to a plurality of
5 syntactic guidelines for said shell script.

1 4. (original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising a guideline verifier mechanism
2 that is responsive to said shell script, wherein said guideline verifier mechanism
3 comprises a plurality of semantic verification checks which when invoked perform
4 verification of conformance of said shell script to a plurality of accepted semantic
5 guidelines for said shell script.

1 5. (original) The method of Claim 4, wherein said guideline verifier mechanism
2 performs a plurality of coding organizational guideline verification checks on said
3 shell script for conformance to a plurality of accepted coding organizational
4 guidelines for said shell script.

1 6. (original) The method of Claim 3, wherein said shell grammar verification mechanism
2 further comprises:
3 a parser mechanism responsive to said shell script which performs parsing of

4 said shell script;
5 and
6 an error routine mechanism responsive to said shell script which performs
7 error detection and identification for said shell script.

1 7. (original) The method of Claim 6, wherein said parser mechanism further comprises:
2 a plurality of verification checks which when invoked perform a plurality of one or
3 more verification checks on said shell script in order to verify conformance of
4 said shell script to a plurality of one or more accepted set of grammar rules for
5 said shell.

1 8. (original) The method of Claim 6, wherein said error routines mechanism further
2 comprises:
3 a plurality of error routines responsive to said shell script which when invoked
4 identify parsing errors and report if parsing has failed in said shell script.

1 9. (original) The parser mechanism of claim 6 wherein:
2 said parser mechanism performs syntactic verification by breaking a stream of input
3 characters from said shell script into a plurality of tokens;
4 and,
5 said plurality of tokens are further reduced based on a set of grammar rules that are associated
6 with said shell script.

1 10. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein:

2 said error routines are invoked when said parser mechanism is unable to reduce said
3 plurality of tokens as per the said shell script set of grammar rules.

1 11. (original) The method of Claim 4, wherein said guideline verification mechanism
2 further comprises:

3 a plurality of support functions responsive to shell script which support a plurality of
4 checks for verification of conformance to a plurality of accepted semantic
5 guidelines and coding organizational guidelines and standards for said shell
6 script;

7 and,

8 a plurality of API functions which perform checks for guideline verification by
9 performing a plurality of checks for verification of conformance to a plurality
10 of accepted semantic guidelines and coding organizational guidelines and
11 standards for said shell script

1 12. (new) The method of Claim 4, wherein said guideline verification mechanism further
2 comprises:

3 a check for usage of a shell.

1 13. (new) The method of Claim 4, wherein said guideline verification mechanism further
2 comprises:

3 a check for presence of a Header.

1 14. (new) The method of Claim 4, wherein said guideline verification mechanism further
2 comprises:

3 a check for an initialization of shell variables.

1 15. (new) The method of Claim 4, wherein said guideline verification mechanism further
2 comprises:

3 a check for referencing shell variables at least once.

1 16. (new) The method of Claim 4, wherein said guideline verification mechanism further
2 comprises:

3 a check for non-redefinition of keywords.

1 17. (new) The method of Claim 4, wherein said guideline verification mechanism further
2 comprises:

3 a check for the presence of placeholders.

1 18. (new) The method of Claim 4, wherein said guideline verification mechanism further
2 comprises:

3 a check for non-usage of bash constructs.

1 19. (new) The method of Claim 4, wherein said guideline verification mechanism further
2 comprises:

3 a check for presence of environmental variables index.

1 20. (new) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions
2 for verifying shell scripts, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:
3 storing, on a computer-readable medium, semantic guidelines that indicate rules,
4 distinct from any rules imposed by the programming language in which the shell
5 scripts are written, about what the scripts should or should not contain, wherein
6 the rules indicated in the semantic guidelines include one or more rules which, if
7 not followed in the shell script, do not result in errors when the shell script is
8 executed;
9 and,
10 prior to executing a shell script, one or more processors of a computer system
11 performing one or more syntactic verification checks on said shell
12 script, wherein said one or more syntactic verification checks verify
13 conformance of said shell script to a set of syntactic guidelines;
14 and,
15 performing one or more semantic verification checks on said shell script,
16 wherein said one or more semantic verification checks verify
17 conformance to the rules indicated in said semantic guidelines.